

§ 8.2

§ 8.2 Designation of officials having seizure authority.

The Director, Associate Director, Assistants to the Director, Assistant Directors, inspectors, and Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are authorized to seize such property as may be subject to seizure pursuant to statutes identified in § 8.1.

§ 8.3 Designation of the investigative bureau having administrative forfeiture authority; claims for awards, offers in compromise and matters relating to bonds.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is, in accordance with the statutes identified in § 8.1, authorized and designated as the investigative bureau to perform various duties with respect to forfeiture which are comparable to the duties performed by collectors of customs or other persons with respect to the seizure and forfeiture of vessels, vehicles, merchandise, and baggage under the customs' laws. The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or his designee is designated as the officer authorized to take final action under these statutes on claims for award of compensation to informers, offers in compromise, and matters relating to bonds or other security.

§ 8.4 Custody of seized property, inventory and receipt.

All property seized pursuant to the statutes identified in § 8.1 shall be turned over to the U.S. Marshals Service when not held as evidence or to be placed into official use following forfeiture. An inventory shall be prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the seized property and a receipt given for it to the person from whom it was seized at the time of seizure or as soon thereafter as practical.

§ 8.5 Appraisal of property subject to forfeiture.

Seized property shall be appraised. The appraisal shall be the function of the Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation or his designee having custody of the property. The value of an article seized shall be the price at which it or a similar article is fairly offered for sale at the time and place of appraisal.

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§ 8.6 Quick-release authority.

Where the forfeiture proceedings are administrative, the Special Agent in Charge, prior to forfeiture, is authorized to release property seized for forfeiture. The property can be quick-released when the Special Agent in Charge deems that there is an innocent owner having an immediate right to possession of the property or when the release would be in the best interest of justice and the Government.

§ 8.7 Judicial forfeiture.

If the appraised value exceeds the monetary amount set forth in title 19, United States Code, section 1607, or a claim and satisfactory bond have been received either for property appraised at that amount or less, or for seized merchandise which is any monetary instrument within the meaning of section 5312(a)(3) of title 31 of the United States Code, the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI field office that seized the property shall transmit the claim and bond to the U.S. Attorney for the judicial district in which the seizure was made for the purpose of instituting judicial forfeiture proceedings. Also transmitted with the claim and bond will be a description of the property and a complete statement of the facts and circumstances leading to the seizure of the property.

[Order No. 1476-91, 56 FR 8685, Mar. 1, 1991]

§ 8.8 Advertisement and declaration of forfeiture.

(a) The notice required by customs laws, section 607, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1607), of seizure and intention to forfeit and sell or otherwise dispose of property seized pursuant to the statutes identified in § 8.1, shall describe the property seized, state the date seized, cause, and place of seizure; and state that any person desiring to claim the property must file with the Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) within 20 days from the date of the first publication of the notice a claim to such property and a bond.

(b) The bond amount shall be \$5,000 or ten percent of the value of the claimed property whichever is lower, but not less than \$250. The bond posted